

"The Wayside" (House)
Concord, Massachusetts

Middlesex County

HABS No. MASS-551

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Massachusetts

Historic American Buildings Survey
Frank Chouteau Brown, District Officer
76 Chestnut Street, Boston, Mass.

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Addendum to
"The Wayside"

(Caleb Ball House)

(Samuel Whitney House)

On the north side of the Lexington Road
about one mile east of Concord Center

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PHOTOGRAPHS
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Addendum to: "THE WAYSIDE"
(Caleb Ball House)
(Samuel Whitney House)

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Location: On the north side of Lexington road approximately one mile east of Concord Center, Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

USGS Concord Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 19.308100.4703180

Present Owner and Occupant: Miss Margaret Lothrop

Present Use: Private residence and historic house open to the public.

Significance: The Wayside, so named by Nathaniel Hawthorne, was begun by Caleb or Nathaniel Ball circa 1700, and in 1775 was the home of Samuel Whitney, Muster Master of the Concord Minute Men, a member of the Concord Committee of Safety and of the Provincial Congress. It is perhaps more famous as the home of important literary people, including Amos Bronson Alcott, Louisa May Alcott, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lothrop.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. The structure is a clear record of changes of technique and style of American building carefully preserved and thoroughly documented by the present owner. The original structure was a typical two story post and girt wooden frame house with gable roof and central fireplaces. Additions include two story wings, a three story tower and a piazza. See field notes for owner's history of structure.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent. Portions of finishes have been removed to display original structure and finishes.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Shape: Two story wooden frame house, clapboard exterior 19th century trim, brick chimneys and a third story tower room with an intersecting gable roof.
2. Over-all dimensions: 49'-5" x 81'-2", located between State Road 2A and an east-west ridge.

3. Foundations: Exterior foundation walls above grade of hammered granite in front only, fieldstone and rubble below grade and in rear. Miscellaneous brick piers. Fireplace foundation of clay brick walls, one wall with engaged piers of soft clay brick, stone foundation rear wall, and granite slab lintels. Modern concrete brick piers and walls.
4. Wall construction: Wooden frame, exterior clapboard on wooden sheathing, some bricks and clay infilling. (Some original clapboards remain. Horizontally topped (about 4'-0" long, lapped end joints, exposure varies from 3" average). Now painted yellow shows traces of red paint. Trim painted yellow-white. Wooden shingles on east wing and on northeast walls. Second floor over old kitchen.
5. Porches, stoops and bulkhead: Front porch and piazza in 19th century addition. Two bay window about center of 17th-18th century nucleus, (19th century addition) replaced an earlier porch or "dingle" at original 17th century entrance. Coal hatch to bin in basement, wooden cover over bulkhead to basement. A stone stoop was found under "summer kitchen", it's location appropriate to the back door of 17th century nucleus. Other entrances of no importance.
6. Chimneys: Central chimney of five flues (18th century with 19th century revisions) and three others of clay bricks.
7. Openings:
 - a. Single front door off piazza into 19th century addition. Original entry into 18th century nucleus converted into a "dingle", then into a bay window. Other doorways unimportant.
 - b. Windows: Single and double bay wooden sash, with variety of glazing; indentions in old framing of 18th century nucleus indicate size and location of original sash.
 - c. Shutters: None
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape and covering: Gable, intersecting gable and flat covered with asphalt shingle, rolled roofing, and sheet metal.
 - b. Cornice: Wooden cornice with heavy dentils.
 - c. Eaves: Boxed eaves. Gutters and downspouts into dry wells.

9. Structure: Post and joint, miscellaneous wooden frame. Members are hewn, mortised and tenoned with peg fasteners, and nailed with nail fasteners.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: Full basement under 18th century nucleus only, crawl space under remainder of structure except under piazza. Basement accessible by stairs off modern kitchen and by bulkhead. (Basement stairs formerly under stairs in 18th century nucleus). Storage bins.
- b. First floor: Entry into stair hall leading into Alcott and Hawthorne study to piazza, to Hawthorne parlor and to Hawthorne dining room now used as sitting room which leads to the original front entry, now with bay window and stairs to second floor 18th century nucleus, to old kitchen or Hawthorne sitting room, to old bathing room or present kitchen and to old kitchen sink.
- c. Second floor: Stair hall over entry hall to Hawthorne bedroom, to Mr. and Mrs. Hawthorne's bedroom, to hall, to stairs to third floor tower room, and to Hawthorne guest room. Stair hall of 18th century nucleus to bedroom and back hall with access to back stairs to bathing room and bedrooms. Bathroom over present kitchen.
- d. Third floor tower room: From stairs off upper stair hall. One room with vaulted ceiling.

2. Stairways:

- a. Major stair: Straight stair to second floor, molded rail, turned newels and balusters.
- b. Stair in 18th century nucleus. U shaped stair winders, turned newels, molded rail.
- c. Miscellaneous stairs of no importance.

3. Flooring: Wooden floor, boards and strips. Some original flooring approximately 20" wide. Painted, varnished, and untouched.

4. Wall and ceiling finishes: Paper on plaster on miscellaneous wooden lath. Some wooden wainscot. Cut-aways reveal many old finishes including paper, plaster, siding and wainscoting. Carefully preserved and documented.

5. Doors: Variety of 18, 19, and 20th century doors of 2,3,4 and 5 panels. Some hand planed. Average quality.
6. Trim: Unimportant. Marble fireplaces in several rooms, circa 1860.
7. Hardware: Miscellaneous 18th, 19th and 20th century hardware of no importance
8. Lighting: Electric lighting installed 1908. Miscellaneous fixtures, some bracketted with crystal pendants.
9. Heating: Central heating, steam installed 1883 (documented). Central fireplace in 18th century nucleus. Old cooking fireplace modified 1880-1890. Stoves added circa 1845 and later.

D. Site:

1. Location: House is situated facing south on north side of Lexington-Concord road in front of ridge parallel road.
2. Enclosures: Retaining walls and embankments at rear of house.
3. Outbuilding: Old barn or carriage house east of main house.
4. Walks: None of importance. Stone steps in retaining wall at rear of house used by Hawthorne to walls to ridge.
5. Landscape: None of importance

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